

Chatham County

Chatham County encompasses Georgia's northernmost coastal area at the mouth of the Savannah River. It was there on Yamacraw Bluff that General James Oglethorpe landed in 1733 and established the Georgia Colony which had been chartered in 1732, the year George Washington was born.

Chatham became the third county organized after the break with England. It was made up of all of Christ Church Parish and part of St. Phillips, dating from 1777. It was named for one of England's most illustrious prime ministers, William Pitt, Earl of Chatham, in honor of his support of the colonial cause in Parliament.

Savannah, the county seat, was a name derived from the Spanish term for grassy plain. From Savannah, in what is now Chatham County, the English under Oglethorpe made forays inland and along the coast to discourage Spanish intrusion northward from Florida.

As early as 1774 Georgia's Patriots began holding rallies in Savannah. In 1775 Savannah Patriots seized a Royal powder magazine and with other hostile acts toward the British Crown attempted to help the Philadelphia Patriots who were then the focus of oppression from England.

A full six months before the signing of the Declaration of Independence, Georgians put their colonial governor under house arrest and initiated home rule.

The Revolutionary War years were eventful for residents of Chatham County. The English captured merchant ships off Tybee Island. In the last days of 1778, Savannah was attacked by a force of 2,500 English soldiers. The following year, American and French units moved to retake the city which the English had now fortified. After a month-long siege, Americans and their allies attacked the Spring Hill Redoubt (the site became the Central of Georgia Depot) in some of the bloodiest fighting of the war. The attack failed, and the Americans pulled out, not to regain the city until 1782.

During the Civil War, Savannah's vital port was blockaded and its commerce crippled. On Christmas Day in 1864, Sherman completed his march through Georgia to the sea and captured the city. Destruction was more limited in Savannah than it had been on the march to Savannah.

Source: Foundations of Government - The Georgia Counties, Association County Commissioners of Georgia, 1976.

News In This County

Congressman Barrow Announces Upcoming Hospital Health Care Tour

February 15, 2007

Starting

on Monday, February 19, Georgia Congressman John Barrow (D-Savannah) will kick off a four-day tour of ten area hospitals that play a vital role in serving the medical needs of Georgia's 12th Congressional District, with stops in Savannah, Statesboro, Claxton, Vidalia, Millen, Swainsboro, Sandersville, Milledgeville, Louisville, and Augusta.

Savannah Area Awarded \$3,000,000 Grant to Enhance, Coordinate Emergency Communications Network

September 15, 2005

Washington, DC -

12th District Congressman John Barrow (D-GA) today announced that local law enforcement and emergency response agencies across the Savannah area have been awarded a \$3,000,000 federal grant from the U.S. Department of Justice's Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS). The money will be used to help emergency service providers coordinate an integrated communications network that allows different agencies and jurisdictions to communicate via radio network when needed.

Savannah/Hilton Head International to Receive \$350,000 Grant for Runway Improvements

March 1, 2006

Washington, DC -

Georgia Congressman John Barrow (12th District) announced today that Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport has been awarded a \$350,000 grant from the Department of Transportation and the Federal Aviation Administration.

Garden City Awarded a \$12,396 Crime Control Grant from the Department of Justice

May 3, 2006

Washington, DC -

12th District Georgia Congressman John Barrow (D-Savannah) today announced that the Garden City Police Department has been awarded a \$12,396 grant from the Department of Justice's Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program (Byrne JAG). The money will be used to purchase and train a Drug Detection K9 to assist in Garden City's ongoing drug traffic patrol efforts.

Barrow Attends White House Ceremony Honoring Savannah's Isaiah Davenport House Museum

May 5, 2005

Washington, DC

- 12th District Congressman John Barrow (D-GA) today attended an award ceremony held at the White House Rose Garden honoring the 2005 Preserve America Presidential Award recipients. Among this year's four recipients was the Isaiah Davenport House Museum in Savannah.

The Coastal Heritage Society in Savannah Awarded a \$37,857 Grant from the National Park Service

June 28, 2007

Washington, DC -

12th District Georgia Congressman John Barrow (D-Savannah) today announced that Coastal Heritage Society in Savannah has been awarded a \$37,857 federal grant from the National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program. The grant will help fund the group's ongoing efforts to identify and preserve revolutionary war battlefields in and around Savannah.

Rep. John Barrow and Local Officials to Host Town Hall Meeting in Savannah on the Region's Emergency Preparedness

October 13, 2005

Savannah -

As communities across the country begin to take a closer look at their emergency preparedness and evacuation plans in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, Savannah Congressman John Barrow (12th District), along with area officials, will host a town hall meeting in downtown Savannah this coming Monday to help inform local citizens about our region's response plans in the event of an emergency or natural disaster.

Savannah & Statesboro Receive \$55,000 in Music Education Grants from the National Endowment for the Arts

May 1, 2006

Washington DC -

Support for music education across southeastern Georgia hit a high note with the recent news that Georgia Southern University and the Savannah Music Festival have both awarded "Access to Artistic Excellence" grants totaling \$55,000 from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).

Congressman Barrow Announces Upcoming Veterans Town Hall Tour

February 14, 2006

Washington, DC -

12th District Georgia Congressman John Barrow (D-Savannah) wants to hear from veterans across the 12th District. Starting on Tuesday, February 21st, Rep. Barrow will launch a three-day Veterans Town Hall Tour with 8 public forums planned in Athens, Augusta, Warrenton, Louisville, Waynesboro, Sylvania, Savannah, and Statesboro.

Rep. Barrow Challenges Dubai International's Pending Purchase of a Military Engine Parts Plant in Rincon, Georgia

March 2, 2006

Washington, DC -

In the wake of today's news of an investigation into a state-owned business from the United Arab Emirates that is set to buy a factory in Rincon, Georgia, that produces parts for military tank and aircraft engines, 12th District Georgia Congressman John Barrow (D-Savannah) is calling on Congress to enact mandatory security investigations into all pending and future foreign acquisitions directly affecting American businesses involved in international transportation or defense contracting.

Barrow: "Don't Cut Immigration Enforcement Funds for State and Local Police"

March 16, 2006

Washington, DC -

Outraged by the recently proposed funding cuts to a vital federal

initiative that reimburses state and local law enforcement agencies for the costs of incarcerating criminal illegal aliens, Georgia Congressman John Barrow (12th District) today called on the House Budget Committee to fully fund the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP).

Congressman
John Barrow Calls for Release of Records on All Foreign Investment Security Investigations Since September 11th, 2001

March 3, 2006

Washington, DC -
Responding to increasing evidence of the Treasury Department's sloppy oversight of foreign investment into businesses and industries critical to American homeland security and military defense, 12th District Georgia Congressman John Barrow and the Ranking Member of the Homeland Security Committee today called on the Treasury Department to release all records related to Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) investigations conducted since September 11th, 2001.

SCAD Artwork Goes on Display in Congressman Barrow's DC Office

July 6, 2005

Washington, DC -
Brushing up his congressional office with a touch of Savannah, 12th District Representative John Barrow (D-GA) recently turned part of his Washington, DC, office into exhibit space for paintings and artwork from the Savannah College of Art and Design.

Barrow Announces \$4,193,177 Transportation Grant for Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport

May 18, 2005

Washington, DC
- 12th District Congressman John Barrow (D-GA) today announced that the Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport has been awarded a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Grant in the amount of \$4,193,177.00. The money will be used to fund runway maintenance, terminal construction, and terminal expansion - helping the airport efficiently serve an increased number of larger aircraft.

Rep. Barrow Joins Rep. Kingston to Introduce New Energy Independence and Conservation Legislation

November 16, 2005

Washington, DC -

In a bipartisan effort to help curb America's growing appetite for imported foreign oil, Savannah area Congressman John Barrow (12th District) today joined with fellow Georgia Congressman Jack Kingston (1st District) to introduce new legislative efforts that promote fuel conservation standards and increased alternative energy development.

Rep. Barrow Announces \$278,295 Grant for Savannah State University

April 8, 2005

Washington, DC -

12th District Congressman John Barrow (D-GA) announced today that Savannah State University will receive a \$278,295 grant from the U.S. Department of Education for the university's Student Support Services (SSS) Program. SSS programs provide tutoring and counseling services to low-income and disadvantaged students working to earn their college and university degrees.

Congressman John Barrow to Host Medicare Prescription Drug Workshop in Savannah

March 6, 2006

On

Monday, March 13th, Georgia Congressman John Barrow (12th District) will host a Medicare Prescription Drug Workshop in Savannah to answer questions and address concerns about the new Medicare Prescription Drug Program - Part D.

Three 12th District Fire Departments to Receive Over \$1.1 Million in Homeland Security Grants

November 1, 2005

Washington, DC -

12th District Congressman John Barrow (D-GA) announced today that the Screven County Fire Department, Avera Volunteer Fire Department, and Southside Communities Fire Protection, Inc., in Savannah have been awarded grants in the combined amount of \$1,101,218 from the United States Department of Homeland Security's Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFGP). The grants help provide for additional training and personal protective equipment.

\$1,000,000 in New Funding for the Chatham Area Transit Authority Approved in House

June 14, 2006

Washington, DC -

12th District Georgia Congressman John Barrow (D-Savannah) today announced that the U.S. House of Representatives has approved \$1,000,000 in new funding for the Chatham Area Transit Authority (CAT). Requested by Rep. Barrow, the money was included in the FY '07 Transportation, Treasury, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act and will be used to help support CAT bus services and bus facilities.

Effingham County Fire Rescue Awarded \$896,771 Homeland Security Grant

January 31, 2007

Washington, DC -

12th District Congressman John Barrow (D-GA) announced today that Effingham County Fire Rescue has been awarded an \$896,771 grant from the United States Department of Homeland Security's Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFGP). Nine area fire departments will use the grant to purchase new communications equipment such as mobile and portable radios, chargers, pagers, base stations, 800 MHz repeaters, and a computer-aided dispatch system - expanding regional collaboration information sharing among the region's firefighters.